

Holy Spirit Byzantine Catholic Church
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Father Michael D. Kunitz, Administrator

SUNDAY, JANUARY 2, 2022
THE SUNDAY BEFORE THE ENLIGHTENMENT
THE FOREFEAST OF THE HOLY THEOPHANY

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE FOR NEW-YEAR'S WEEK

Sunday, January 2:	11:00 a.m. – Sunday Divine Liturgy <ul style="list-style-type: none">• * <i>For the Intention of our Holy Spirit Parish</i>• * <i>God's Blessings for New Pastor Father Michael Kunitz</i> <i>by Ms. Catherine J. Warhola</i>
Thursday, January 6:	The Feast of the Holy Theophany of Our Lord Jesus Christ (HOLY DAY) 6:30 p.m. – New Year's-Day Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great <ul style="list-style-type: none">• * <i>For the Intention of our Holy Spirit Parish</i>
Sunday, January 9:	The Sunday of the Holy Forebears of God & Synaxis of the Most Holy Godbearer 11:00 a.m. – Sunday Divine Liturgy <ul style="list-style-type: none">• * <i>For the Intention of our Holy Spirit Parish</i>• + <i>George Bacasa by Miss Mary A. Dzurichko</i>

Epistle: Ephesians 4:7-13 Gospel: Matthew 4:12-17

TODAY IS THE SUNDAY BEFORE THE HOLY THEOPHANY FEAST....

As we observe this **Sunday Before The Enlightenment**, the historical context for the baptism-event is established. John is baptizing at the Jordan River as the thirty-year-old Jesus prepares to go there for His own baptism. In the early Church, "**enlightenment**" was another term used for baptism. On this preparatory Sunday for the Theophany Feast, the Church puts forth the theme of our own BAPTISM through which we were initiated into Christ's community—the Church. Baptism must be our very own personal "enlightenment" with Jesus' light being firmly implanted within us.

CHRISTIAN GREETING FOR THE HOLY THEOPHANY SEASON....

Throughout this festive Theophany holiday season, we shall use as our Christian greeting "**Christ is baptized!**" ("*Christos krešajetsja!*"). In response, we then acknowledge the reality of Jesus' holy baptism by indicating where it occurred: "**In the Jordan!**" ("*Vo Jordan'!*") These greetings also are used at **mirovanije**, the anointing with holy oil.

THURSDAY IS THE FEAST OF THE HOLY THEOPHANY OF THE LORD.....

The splendid feast of **The HOLY THEOPHANY of our Lord JESUS CHRIST** will be celebrated joyously and with solemnity on **Thursday, January 6th**. Jesus left Nazareth at age thirty and came to the Jordan River to receive baptism from John the Baptist. After Jesus' baptism, the heavens opened, and God the Father attested to the fact that Jesus was His eternal Son. The Holy Spirit also appeared above the head of Jesus in the form of a dove. For the first time in human history, the **TRINITY** was revealed at Jesus' baptism. The word *theophany* comes from two Greek words which indicate "the manifestation of God." At the baptism of Jesus, God manifested Himself as the Trinity—three distinct Persons (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) in one unique and undivided Godhead. The Ruthenian people popularly referred to the theophany feast as simply "**Jordan**" because of the solemn ritual for the great sanctification of water which took place in conjunction with this festival. Therefore, the theophany holy day liturgically is the most important feast after the Radiant Resurrection of the Lord. Let us now go vicariously to the River Jordan for Jesus' baptism where we shall observe the theophany event: the revelation of the Divine Trinity. As Christ is baptized in the Jordan, this spiritual occurrence should create in us an attitude of holy joy, inasmuch as Jesus now comes among us as the Messiah, teaching us the way to achieve eternal salvation. Truly *Christ is among us*, and therefore *God is with us!*